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**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt, said apparatus comprising a rigid planar member having a front side and a rear side and a plurality of perforations extending from said front side to said rear side, said perforations being spaced and aligned in the form of a first shape suitable for stretching and drying said pelt, wherein each of said perforations is capable of releasably securing a nail, so that said pelt is securable to said apparatus by driving nails through said pelt and into said perforations.

12. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a plurality of second perforations extending from said front side to said rear side, said second perforations being spaced and aligned in the form of a second shape, such that said second shape is positioned inside of said first shape.

13. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, wherein said first shape is-oval.

14. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 12, wherein said second shape is oval.

15. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, wherein said rigid planar member is a sheet of plywood.

16. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one of said plurality of perforations is bevelled so as to ease the entry of said nail into said perforation.

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17. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, wherein at least one of said perforations is angled relative to a normal projecting perpendicularly to said front side of said rigid planar member.

18. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one of said perforations is angled relative to a normal projecting perpendicularly to said front side of said rigid planar member.

19. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, the apparatus further comprising at least one nail, wherein said rigid planar member is associated with said at least one nail and said associated nail has a sharp tip.

20. (New) An apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 11, the apparatus further comprising at least one nail, wherein said rigid planar member is associated with said at least one nail and at least one of said perforations has a diameter which is slightly greater than the outside diameter of said associated nail.

21. (New) A method of making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt comprising the steps of:

positioning, on a surface of a rigid planar member, a template, said template comprising a sheet material having a plurality of markers printed thereon, said markers being spaced and aligned on the template in the form of at least a section of a shape suitable for stretching and drying the pelt;

forming perforations for receiving nails in said rigid planar member using said template as a guide, said perforations being sized to have perforation diameters larger than outside diameters of said nails.

22. (New) A method of making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 21, wherein said shape is oval.

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23. (New) A method of making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 21, further comprising the step of forming a bevelled edge on each of said perforations.

24. (New) A method of making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 21, wherein said step of forming perforations in said rigid planar member includes forming said perforations at an angle to a normal projecting perpendicularly to said surface of said rigid planar member.

25. (New) A kit for making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt comprising:

a template comprising a sheet material having a plurality of markers printed thereon, said markers being spaced and aligned on the template in the form of at least a section of a shape suitable for stretching and drying the pelt; and  
a plurality of nails.

26. (New) A kit for making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 25, wherein said shape is oval.

27. (New) A kit for making an apparatus for stretching and drying a pelt as claimed in claim 25, further comprising a rigid planar member.

28. (New) The use of the apparatus as claimed in claim 11, to stretch and dry a pelt on one of said front side and said rear side.

29. (New) The use of the apparatus as claimed in claim 28, further comprising using the apparatus to simultaneously stretch and dry a second pelt on the other of said front and said rear side of said rigid planar member.